

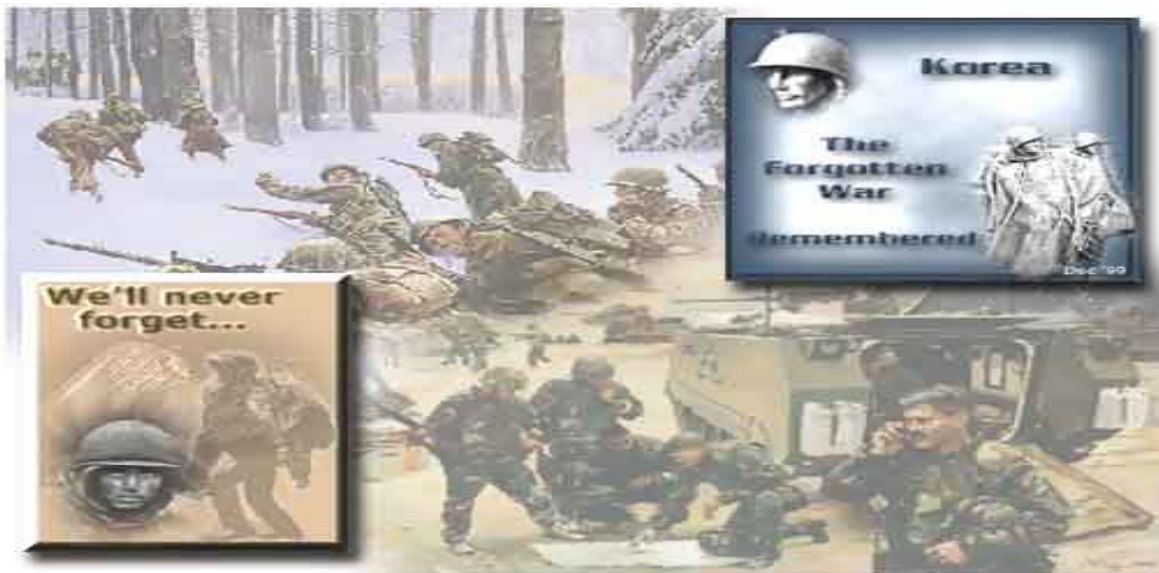


## **HISTORY OF THE FORT POLK NONCOMMISSIONED OFFICER ACADEMY**

The NCO Academy at Fort Polk, LA was initially organized and operated by the 49<sup>th</sup> Armored Division, Texas National Guard, when it was called to Federal Service in 1961. Its history began in the 4700 block at South Fort Polk, Louisiana. On December 22, 1961, the NCO Academy was by General Order # 21, as the Fort Polk Noncommissioned Officer Academy.

The Fort Polk NCO Academy was directed to establish a Leadership Orientation Course. This was completed on 12 November 1963. Its mission was to train potential trainee leaders for Basic Combat Leadership slots. This was accomplished under the command of Captain William L. Cole, the first "Commandant" of the Fort Polk Noncommissioned Officer Academy. This title was changed to "Academy Director" on 9 December 1963.

Many changes took place in 1964. Many new NCOs were assigned to the Academy in preparation for the start of the first cycle of Drill Sergeant School, which began on 6 October 1964. In command at this time were Major Arthur W. Brigwell, Academy Director, and Master Sergeant Leo C. Joseph as first NCOIC of the Drill Sergeant School.



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In 1965, the Fort Polk Noncommissioned Officer Academy started receiving students from as far away as Fort Hood and Fort Bliss, Texas. These students were the first graduates of the Drill Sergeant School during the 1965 schedule.

During the following years, the Fort Polk NCO Academy taught courses such as the Leadership Preparation Course, the Modified Basic Training Course, the Special Training Company, and the NCO Course.

In August of 1969, and August 1970, the Fort Polk NCO Academy Drill Sergeant School produced its first two Drill Sergeants of the Army. These Drill Sergeants were SFC Allen G. Carpenter and SFC Edward G. McGinnis. In 1972, the NCO Academy was assigned to the mission of establishing a Special Leadership Course for grades E-4 through E-6.

The Fort Polk NCO Academy was redesignated as the 5<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division NCO Academy on 01 July 1975 and the Headquarters Company of the NCO Academy was deactivated. Along with this deactivation, history was again written for the NCO Academy. With the deactivation of Headquarters Company, CSM Ravis Bourgeois, the first enlisted Commandant of the 5th Infantry Division Noncommissioned Officer Academy, assumed command of the Academy. During the following years, the NCO Academy added courses such as the Primary NCO Course (PNCOC) for combat arms, the Primary Leadership Course (PLC) for Combat Support/Combat Service Support, and the Basic Noncommissioned Officer Course (BNCOC) for combat arms.

In April 1984, the NCO Academy was accredited by Headquarters, Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) for the Primary Leadership Development Course; replacing the Primary NCO Course and the Primary Leadership Course.

On the 28<sup>th</sup> of September, 1999, the Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Polk Noncommissioned Officer Academy was again accredited by the United States Army Sergeants Major Academy.

On 04 August 2003 the Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Polk Noncommissioned Officer Academy was once again accredited by the United States Army Sergeants Major Academy.



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On 08 August 2005 USASMA directed a name change from Primary Leadership Development Course to the Warrior Leader Course based on our contemporary operational environment and the assimilation of the warrior spirit into our culture.